

Judgment Fund Accountability Act of 2021

U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

Bill Summary:

- **Prevent payments from the Judgement Fund to illegal immigrants**
- **Require a public accounting of the taxpayer funds distributed via the Fund to parties who bring successful claims against the Federal government**
- **Promotes transparency and oversight by requiring the Treasury Department to post on a publicly accessible website the claimant, counsel, agency, fact summary, and payment amount for each claim from the Judgment Fund, unless a law or court order otherwise prohibits the disclosure of such information**

Background:

The Treasury Department's Judgment Fund is used by the Treasury Department to pay certain settlements when lawsuits are brought against the federal government. Use of this fund has been heavily scrutinized over the last decade for limited accountability, transparency or oversight. This includes the Obama Administration's decision to transfer \$1.3 billion from the Judgment Fund to the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2016. The fund is not subject to the annual appropriations process, and lacks binding reporting requirements.

Sen. Fischer's legislation responds to reports the Biden Administration plans to offer migrants who broke the law to come into the U.S. settlement payments up to \$450,000 per person. The payments are in response to lawsuits by these individuals against the government. That figure is more than four times greater than the payment families of our fallen servicemembers receive.

In addition to preventing Judgement Fund dollars from going to illegal immigrants, the bill would enact a series of rules to boost transparency and public disclosure payments from the fund.

The bill is co-sponsored by Sen. Grassley (R-Iowa.), Sen. Capito (R-W.Va.), Sen. Crapo (R-Idaho.), Sen. Cramer (R-N.D.), Sen. Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Sen. Cassidy (R-La.), and Sen. Blackburn (R-Tenn.).